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**PRIOR TO VENEZUELAN COUP ATTEMPT,
ECONOMIC DISSATISFACTION WIDESPREAD**

RELEASED IN FULL

Preliminary findings from a USIA-sponsored national survey of 1400 adults in Venezuela on January 16 - 21, 1992 show:

- On the eve of the coup attempt by military officers in Venezuela, public dissatisfaction with economic conditions was very widespread. As the country's street demonstrations and strikes have indicated, a vast majority of Venezuelans (84%) think "things are going poorly" (four-in-ten say very poorly) and almost as many (81%) cite the economic situation as one of the two most serious problems facing the country.
- Three-fourths rate the state of the economy as bad (45% say very bad) and half expect it to worsen in the next year. A majority (56%) disapproves of President Perez' economic reforms (most say food prices should be set by the government).
- Opinions on political issues are mixed. Three-fourths of Venezuelans agree that "Latin Americans are best off under a democracy." Half are satisfied with the functioning of their democracy (a figure which compares favorably with opinions in neighboring Andean countries), but a large minority (43%) say they are dissatisfied.
- Venezuelans who are dissatisfied with the functioning of their democracy most often cite corruption, as well as economic problems, as the major reasons. Last September, a Venezuelan poll reported that three-in-ten urban residents thought there would be a coup and military dictatorship "if the bad economic situation and corruption continue" (although half said that "democracy is strong and will correct these problems).
- On the Perez administration, two-in-ten evaluate its overall record as good, while one third say it is neither good nor bad. Four-in-ten rate the Perez record badly (22% say it is very bad). Opinion is split on President Perez himself (48% favorable, 44% unfavorable).

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